

LAPA SURVEY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S ZEBRA MUSSEL EXPERIENCE

1. Agency in charge-
PA Fish and Boat Commission; assistance from PA DEP
2. ZM first discovered-
1989- Lake Erie; Allegheny and Ohio Rivers around 1991 to 94; six inland lakes 2000.
Also, in some quarries.
- 3 Action taken after discovery
- Monitoring, screen and clean at some lakes (all volunteers); inform and notify the people; education; spread the word; make people aware.
4. Immediate action to stop the spread-
Never closed any lake boat ramps. Education. Spread the word. Used a draw down which was very effective.
5. Do you target only water bodies susceptible to zm growth?
No. We have one lake with zm and a calcium level of six. We target all lakes.
6. Ways zm are transferred from lake to lake-
From boats that go from lake to lake. ZM have been known to live up to 14 days out of ideal conditions.
7. Actions take upon discovery-
Post water body. Information and education. Get the word out.
8. State program to prevent transfer-
No formal program. Education; spread the word; posting the lake (signs)
9. Do you have a boat monitoring program-?
No formal program. Against state regulations to transfer invasive species from lake to lake. A few lakes have boat monitoring programs which are run locally.
- 10 Do you prohibit boats recently in infested waters?
Only in water bodies in the National Forest. It is illegal to transfer invasive species from lake to lake. Boat owners that go from infested lake to non-infested lakes are asked to clean their boats first.
- 11 .Enforcement power to prevent boat launching-
None
12. What has been the zm impact on water bodies?
Decreased use of public beaches. Cuts in feet and hands. Plant growth (both invasive and native) has increased significantly which has made it difficult to fish in some areas. Has been a vast alteration in fishing. It stinks in some areas.

13. Have you been successful in preventing or reducing the spread-?
No and yes. Draw downs have been successful.

14. Ecological change in infested lakes-
Water clarity. Plant growth change. Native mussels are reduced.

15. Standardized, certified boat washing program-
No

16. Permits for fishing derbies-
Yes- We ask people to clean their boats. Some monitors.

17. Boat registration policy-
Yes. Funds do not go for boat monitoring programs.

18. Do you have an education/pr program?-
No, we are working on one. i.e. - Sea Grant

19 How do you combat the attitude of some people that zm are inevitable and not all that bad?

We have been successful combating this attitude by education. We tell people to work at keeping their lakes clean. You don't want to be the one lake out of ten or twenty that has zm. The more effort, the better the results.

In summary, PA has six lakes and three rivers with zm. They have been successful in limiting the spread by education (spreading the word), posting the infested lakes and managing the zm by using a draw down. I have a copy of the evaluation of the draw down which I will send you. He also mentioned a bacteria approach to kill zm which is being field tested.

Ray Grogan